

EASY PRINT – Lenten Vespers Two – March 4, 2026

Prelude Music

The congregation's candles are lit as the priest enters.

Priest: Light and peace in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Priest: Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

All: **we light these candle to thank you for the light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. May we who journey through the darkness of Lent be led by the radiance of your one true light. This we ask in the name of Jesus, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

Hymn: #24 CP - “ABIDE WITH ME” (v 1, 3, 4)

All sing

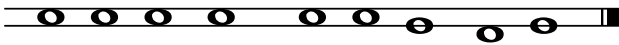
Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee.
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.


I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's
power? Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless, ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

The Blessing of the Light

Please kneel or be seated

Priest: 
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The soloist sings the refrain, all repeat:

The musical score is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key with one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Bless-ed are you! Bless-ed are you! Bless-ed are you, O Lord our God!' written below the notes. The score includes a soloist part and a part for all to repeat.

Priest: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the shepherd of Israel,
their pillar of cloud by day, their pillar of fire by night.

All sing the refrain

Priest: In these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance,
that in this pilgrimage of prayer we might learn to be your people once
more.

All sing the refrain

Priest: You open our eyes to our many blessings, especially that of your own
presence, and you free our hands to lead others to the radiant splendour of
your mercy.

All sing the refrain

Priest: Be with us in these journey days, for without you we are lost and will
perish. To you alone be dominion and glory, forever and ever. Amen.

All sing the refrain

All may extinguish their candles and be seated for the reading of scripture.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God.

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Gospel of John.

John 19.23-27

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.’ This was to fulfil what the scripture says, ‘They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.’ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The reader concludes saying,

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection – *Father Daniel Brereton*

The Prayers & Lenten Prose

All join the Cantor in singing:



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: for we have sin-ned a - gainst thee.

Cantor: To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory, lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings; listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

All sing the refrain

Cantor: O thou chief corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father, Way of salvation, Gate of life celestial; cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

All sing the refrain

Cantor: God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated, bow down and hearken to thy weeping children; pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

All sing the refrain

Cantor: Sins oft committed now we lay before thee; with true contrition, now no more we veil them; grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

All sing the refrain

Cantor: Innocent captive, taken unresisting, falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced; save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

All sing the refrain



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: for we have sin-ned a - gainst thee.

Priest: Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

People: **Amen.**

Act of Faith

Priest: While Jesus has told us to take up our cross, sometimes the worst suffering is standing at the foot the cross of someone we love, witnessing their suffering, unable to do anything to save them. We stand at the foot of Jesus' cross, with John the Beloved Disciple and Mary his mother, and like her, our hearts are pierced with sorrow over the pain, perhaps the loss, of those we love.

Priest: Jesus urges us to care for one another and to stand together, as a family united not only in grief, but in God's love. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord, to come lay a flower at the foot of the cross, knowing that we do not stand in our times of trial and pain alone, but with the love and compassion of the Lord who hung upon it.

The soloist will sing as the congregation comes forward for the Act of Faith.

Solo: #532 - "WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

Priest: O living God, in Jesus Christ you were laid in the tomb at this evening hour, and thereby sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope to your people. Give us courage and faith to die daily to all that separates us from your love, and renew us with the hope of salvation. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Lord it is night.

People: **The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Priest: It is night after a long day.

People: **What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.**

Priest: The night is dark.

People: **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.**

Priest: The night is quiet.

People: **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.**

Priest: The night heralds the dawn.

People: **Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.**

Priest: Come like the light of these candles, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and all evils be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified by his risen life.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: "MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN"

All sing

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne, salvation to bestow;
But all made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

Priest: Go forth in love, to encourage one another and to care for one another, in the name of God Our Father, and Jesus Chfrist, our Brother.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to all that participated in the service tonight.